

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TAHARA, Narihiro et al
Appl. No.: NEW Group:
Filed: July 13, 2001 Examiner:
For: RUBBER COMPOSITION FOR TYRE TREAD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

July 13, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The rubber composition of Claim 1, wherein the inorganic powders are at least one kind of inorganic powders selected from the group consisting of clay, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium silicate and mica.

Please add the following claims:

--6. (New) The rubber composition of Claim 2, wherein the inorganic powders are at least one kind of inorganic powders selected from the group consisting of clay, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium silicate and mica.--

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to remove the multiple dependency and new claim 6 has been added.

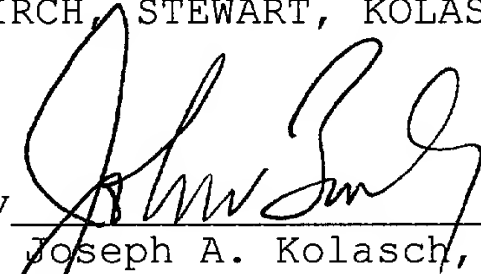
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

(Rev. 03/27/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The rubber composition of Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the inorganic powders are at least one kind of inorganic powders selected from the group consisting of clay, aluminum hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium silicate and mica.

Claim 6 has been added.